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The **P**lanet Sierra Club Activist Resource

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Ten Ways to Make the Environment Matter on November 2

"Every vote makes a difference. But some votes make more of a difference than others."

BY JOHN BYRNE BARRY

Election Day is coming fast. And there's still time to make a difference.

While war and the economy are dominating the attention of Americans, for one in ten voters, the environment is the most important electoral issue, according to a Yale Survey in May 2004.

Environmental voters have the power to swing the 2004 election. In Florida, where the margin of victory four years ago was 567 votes, there are more than 200,000 "environment first" voters. Unfortunately, many of these "environment-first" voters don't always make it to the polls. So getting them there is one of the Sierra Club's top priorities this November.

"Every vote makes a difference," says Debbie Sease, director of the Club's Environmental Voter Education Campaign. "But some votes make more of a difference than others."

In other words, we need your help.

Here are ten ways to make the environment matter on November 2.

1. Tell your friends.

The biggest single reason that infrequent voters vote is because someone asks them. You can be that person.

Urge your friends, family, and neighbors to learn more about the environmental records of the candidates and to vote on November 2. You can look at a side-by-side comparison of George Bush and John Kerry on pages 4 and 5. (Feel free to clip and copy, or go to sierraclubvotes.org/resources/bushkerryfact.pdf.) And you can find and forward this list of ten ways at sierraclub.org/insider.

2. Educate yourself.

The side-by-side comparison of Bush and Kerry is a good place to start. Or visit the Sierra Club's Web site—sierraclub.org—where we're counting "100 Reasons to Get Involved," with a new reason every day until November 2.

3. Walk and talk.

Join a voter-education walk or phone bank in your community. If you live in Philadelphia, for example, every weekend you can join environmental advocates going door-to-door to educate voters about the candidates' records on clean air and clean water. Four days a week volunteer phone-bankers cram Club offices downtown or in suburban Narberth.

This year, the Club voter education program is reaching thousands of voters in Philadelphia and ten other communities—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Tampa,

[MORE ON P. 4]



ERIK WESSELMAN



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ERIK WESSELMAN

Making Contact: Sierra Club voter education efforts are now underway in 11 key battleground sites. At top, a young volunteer distributes literature in Reno, Nevada. In Philadelphia, Service Employees International Union members join Sierra Club members in a "blue-green" outreach, going door-to-door to educate voters about the presidential candidates' records on clean air and clean water. At bottom, a participant in the Club's "Road to Somewhere" program arrives in Reno, clipboard and lunch in hand.

Toxic Fallout

Ground Zero Report Documents Deception by the Bush Administration

BY CAROLINE KRAUS

Former EMT worker John Graham stood on the steps of New York's City Hall in August, gripping an oxygen bottle like the one he used to help survivors on September 11, 2001. Now, he said, he carries the same kind of bottle every day to keep himself alive in what he calls "a living hell."

Like a growing number of people in the city, Graham suffers from the effects of toxic post-9/11 air, a condition he might have been able to avoid had he known how dangerous the air was. Instead, the EPA issued the following assurance only weeks after the attack: "There is no reason for concern...the public is not being exposed to excessive levels of asbestos or other harmful substances."

Graham stood as living evidence to the contrary when he joined Sierra Club representatives at City Hall to help announce the Club's report, "Pollution and Deception at Ground Zero." The report documents the Bush administration's alarming trail of post-9/11 missteps, lies, and cover-ups, which resulted in greater exposures of many hundreds of ground zero workers and residents to harmful chemicals released by the World Trade Center collapse.

Prominent in the report is the added fact that the Bush administration has institutionalized its mishandling of post-9/11 communication, making its system of misinformation, cover-ups, and failures official policy for future disaster responses. This promises future post-disaster protocol such as: the suppression of health warnings, the issuing of false assurances, the elimination of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's role to protect the safety of "first responders" in national emergencies, and possibly even the lowering of toxic clean-up standards.

Suzanne Mattei, author of the report and Sierra Club New York City organizer, cites documents that the Sierra Club acquired under the Freedom of Information Act, as well as first-person interviews with fire and

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from **THE** editor

'Your Call is Important to Us'

We can't blame everything on the Bush administration. It's DuPont, not the Bush administration, that's pumping 12 million pounds of toxic waste into the air and water in Harrison County, Mississippi. (See "DuPont Toxic Dump Plan Derailed," at right.)

For the past several years, the Sierra Club has been connecting the dots between local environmental problems—be they asthma in children or mercury contamination of fish—and Bush administration policies. Those connections are seemingly everywhere.

So it's easy to forget that it's not the Bush administration that is doing the actual polluting, or logging, or drilling. (Usually.) It's the oil industry, or the timber industry, or, in the case of Harrison County, Mississippi, the chemical industry. But we point the finger at the Bush administration because it has the tools to enforce laws that protect citizens from industry abuses, but doesn't use them.

Instead, it weakens these laws and helps industry dodge them. In fact, according to a *Los Angeles Times* investigative team, the Bush administration has even created a "complaint desk" for the energy industry, so that industry concerns get passed on quickly to federal land management employees in the field.

In other words, if you're an oil or mining company, you get your own customer service department. Want to drill for natural gas in the Rocky Mountains but some pesky BLM scientist says it could hurt wildlife? Call the White House Task Force for Energy Project Streamlining, which can turn the screws on the local field office.

The *Los Angeles Times* cites the example of a BLM archaeologist who received such a call from the White House and initially thought it was a joke. "You must have the thing in Iraq taken care of if you have time to call somebody in a field office about a gas well," he answered.

Once he realized the call, about a drilling permit, was no prank, he treated the matter seriously. He later explained to the *Times*, "It becomes a top priority because you don't want the bosses to jump down your throat. I've worked for the federal government since the Reagan administration, and that's never happened before."

But what if you're just an ordinary American citizen?

While operators are standing by for the administration's industry friends, input from regular citizens is pretty much ignored. The Forest Service held more than 600 hearings for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and received more than 2 million public comments, the vast majority of which favored strong protections for remaining roadless areas. But the administration rewrote the rule to allow more drilling, mining, and timber harvesting in roadless areas.

It's the same story for the administration's plan for mercury pollution, which was practically written by the utility industry. More than 500,000 concerned citizens flooded the EPA with comments, mostly in support of stronger limits, but to no avail.

The message to ordinary citizens? "Your call is important to us. Please stay on the line for the next available operator." And instead of soft rock, replace hold music with the whir of chainsaws and the rumble of drilling pumps.

—JOHN BYRNE BARRY
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(Thanks to Sierra Club RAW:
sierraclub.org/raw)

DuPont Toxic Dump Plan Derailed

■ BY TOM VALTIN

Sherry Cuevas of Harrison County, Mississippi, has endured more than her share of loss and suffering. "My daughter died of cancer four years ago at age 39," she recalls with stoic resignation. "I recently lost my daughter-in-law, also in her 30s, to cancer, and my husband and I have both had breast cancer."

Cuevas has counted 65 deaths in her immediate area, "all to cancer, mostly too young." She attributes this alarming spate of fatal illnesses and a local epidemic of neuromuscular diseases to toxic pollution from the DuPont chemical plant in nearby DeLisle, on Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Cuevas' son, who worked at the plant, is now disabled and on dialysis.

"DuPont says they've done no wrong," she says, "but it has to be DuPont." Cuevas says her tap water smells, and the water in her toilet is black and greasy; she bleaches it every week, and only drinks bottled water at home. She gets painful blisters on her skin, which she was told might be a result of showering; an attorney advised her not to take hot baths. "DuPont's old dump had no abiding laws to monitor it, and they dumped a lot of bad stuff in there over the years. A new trailer park came in recently near the old dump and now a lot of those people are getting sick too."

But thanks to the dedication of a handful of Sierra Club volunteers and a local populace that finally got fed up, in July the supervisors of Harrison County—where DeLisle is located—voted unanimously to ask the Army Corps of Engineers to deny DuPont a permit to expand its DeLisle plant and convert a nearby wetland into a toxic waste landfill.

"I see DuPont as a killing field in this community," says Mississippi Chapter Co-Chair Rose Johnson. "People are getting sicker and sicker and even dying from DuPont's stubbornness to reduce pollution emissions from their DeLisle plant. Up until now, whatever DuPont has asked for, they've gotten. For the first time, local elected officials have had the courage to say 'No' to the state's biggest polluter."

Johnson recalls that at a public hearing in Harrison County this spring on DuPont's proposed expansion, the first people the company trotted out to speak in favor of the plans were the president of the local school board and the principal of the local elementary school. Sierra Club Gulf Coast Group Chair Brenda Songy was in attendance as well. When it came her turn to speak, Songy turned to the two educators and asked, "Would you take money from drug pushers? Of course not. Then why would you take money from poison pushers? You should be ashamed."

DuPont's DeLisle plant, which opened in 1979, annually spews out more than 12 million pounds of toxic waste into the air, the groundwater, and the adjacent Bay of St. Louis. "You used to be able to go fishing and crabbing in the bay," says Sherry Cuevas. "Not anymore."

Like most Harrison County residents, Cuevas had never been involved in any kind of environmental or community activism before now. But two years ago, perceiving the threat DuPont posed, she joined the Sierra Club and the Mississippi Environmental Recovery Alliance. She now regularly attends Club meetings, and this spring she circulated petitions and spoke out against DuPont's toxic landfill plans at public meetings. "Speaking out is new to me," Cuevas says, "but this campaign has gotten a lot of local people involved. Now people here trust the Sierra Club who might not have before."

Earlier this year when DuPont made public its permit application to turn a living wetland into a toxic waste pit, Mississippi Chapter activists traveled to Jackson, the state capital, to research the company's record of environmental compliance activities in the state. Through the Freedom of Information Act, they discovered that DuPont had been violating its existing air permit for 15 years and was seeking a "retroactive" permit to legalize those higher emissions, while also requesting permits for a major expansion that would increase pollution—this in a county that has received an "F" rating from the American Lung Association for poor air quality.

Retired oceanographic scientist and Harrison County resident Jerry Landrum was one of the activists who traveled to Jackson. "I took three 4'-by-8' sheets of foam insulation and covered them with Xeroxed records documenting the impact of 25 years' of pollution from the DeLisle plant," he says. "Then this spring I brought them to public hearings to demonstrate factually the amount of pollution we're talking about." Landrum also circulated petitions opposing the landfill to local businesses and neighborhood groups that garnered more than 1,000 signatures. Working with Johnson, Songy, and others, he helped sound the alarm about DuPont's expansion plans.

As a result, when DuPont held public hearings in Harrison County this spring (as required by law), they were well-attended by concerned locals. "This wouldn't have happened without the Sierra Club's involvement," Rose Johnson says. "The Club helped get us a grant to mail a flyer to 65,000 households advertising the first public hearing on DuPont's application to increase air emissions. Local groups here just don't have the resources to do that



BRANDY GELTJE



BRANDY GELTJE

Testifying for Environmental Justice: Gulf Coast Group Chair Brenda Songy, top, speaks out at a public hearing in Harrison County, Mississippi, opposing DuPont's plans to increase air emissions and turn a local wetland into a toxic waste landfill. Mississippi Chapter Co-Chair Rose Johnson, above, says DuPont's unwillingness to reduce toxic pollution is poisoning the local community.

kind of blanket mailing. It really helped us turn the tide."

One local resident who spoke out—a retired colonel from the Army Corps of Engineers who now runs a waste remediation business—told the board, "Before now I wouldn't have been caught dead with these people [the Sierra Club]. But I know the effects of dioxins, and I know the problems associated with trying to contain toxins."

"I realize it makes DuPont's job easier to paint a picture of environmentalists as anti-industry and on the fringe," Brenda Songy testified at a hearing this spring. "But corporate behavior in the past few years has been so egregious that many mainstream individuals such as myself are joining their cause. I am a graduate of a business college and an advocate of corporations making a profit by serving their customers. But when a corporation changes its focus from serving its customers to serving its profit margins, the public has an obligation to speak out."

In June, at a public hearing on the wetlands fill and landfill permits, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors came out in opposition to the landfill plan. The board subsequently came under intense pressure from DuPont and other area business leaders, who threatened that if DuPont wasn't given what they wanted, the plant would close and 1,000 local jobs would be lost. But the strong-arm tactics failed, and on July 13 the board voted unanimously to send letters to regulatory officials opposing the plant expansion and the toxic landfill.

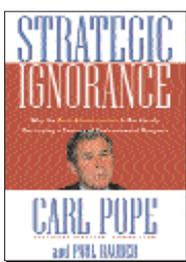
"DuPont is destroying our most valuable asset—nature—and harming our precious children," says Rose Johnson. "The Sierra Club is fighting for more stringent regulations governing pollution emissions from DuPont, and this campaign has really increased our credibility around here. We applaud the tenacity of the DeLisle community in their efforts to protect themselves from big polluters."

Goals for Our Grandchildren

Adapted from Strategic Ignorance: Why the Bush Administration is Recklessly Destroying a Century of Environmental Progress, by Carl Pope and Paul Rauber, available from Sierra Club Books.

The Bush administration and its cohorts have a long-range vision, one they have used to unite and motivate their hard-right supporters. Just as the twentieth century saw the pace of environmental progress gradually swell and increase, they intend for the first decade of the twenty-first century to reverse 100 years of progress. It is a breathtakingly bold enterprise: not only to change environmental law but to do so as part of re-making the American character and returning American society to a no-holds-barred, winner-take-all jungle.

If they have that much courage, why should we have less? We were making progress up to November 2000. We should be proud of that progress. But even the pace at which we were going was not sufficient to reach our goal. Just as Bush's team did, we need to lay out our long-range vision for the twenty-first century. That visionary path will require a good deal of collective dreaming; here are some goals that might make our grandchildren proud of the path we chose:



First, leave behind the carbon economy of oil, gas, corrupt Saudi princes, and Dick Cheney, not only here in the United States but globally. Have the patience to stay the course in the necessary transition to renewable energy sources while the global climate teeters and eventually stabilizes. It is probably already too late to avoid some climate shifts from carbon dioxide loading in the atmosphere, but a shift of two degrees will be far less damaging than one of ten. The climate will recover more rapidly from a low fever than a high one.

Second, substitute sustainable agriculture for the industrial model based on pesticides, herbicides, and poorly tested genetically engineered foods. Getting rid of outrageous subsidies and restoring family farms is only a first step. Next comes making serious public investments in agricultural research, to put the world's cumulative, sophisticated knowledge of plant ecology to work. Home gardens have provided families with a huge part of their fruits and vegetables for centuries, growing hundreds of species in small gardens with neither pesticides nor artificial fertilizers. We need to develop agricultural systems of comparable sophistication, productivity, and diversity—and then invest in helping farmers shift from chemical-based industrial monoculture to these new patterns. This shift does not mean that food will cost the average consumer more; in fact, nutritious, affordable, and varied diets for six billion humans can be sustained only by agriculture on the model of gardening rather than industry.

Third, abandon both the metaphor and the practice of unifying human communities with networks of roads, railroads, and sprawling strip cities, and instead focus on reconnecting fragmented natural communities with green belts, reserves, corridors, floodways, and wild rivers. Human communities need to nest within a connected and naturally functioning landscape, but wilderness cannot survive in isolated pockets within an urbanized wasteland. Nature needs elbow room. It needs connection. The promise of wilderness is everywhere, not just on the public lands of the West. But we need to combine our love of special places with greater respect for our entire landscape—what Aldo Leopold called "the land ethic."

Fourth, amortize and retire our 200-year investment in toxic technologies based on heat and pressure applied to metals and hydrocarbons. A green economy is now a technological reality and an economic practicality. It is penetrating the market very slowly, however, because it must compete with older, polluting technologies in which enormous capital has been invested and which enjoy tremendous subsidies from government in the form of inadequate enforcement of environmental standards. Chemical companies' bottom lines would look very different if they had to account for the true cost of their activities. But these companies do not want to write off their investment in old technologies, so they fight for and keep their subsidies. New technologies are prevented from competing on a level playing field. We need to stop the hidden subsidies for technologies that are poisoning the planet.

Opting for hope over despair, Club Executive Director Carl Pope sketches out a vision of clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and natural communities.

Finally, we need to create and measure wealth, not waste. We should then distribute it fairly enough that excess consumption is no longer the measure of either security or dignity. The connection of this principle to the environment may seem tenuous, but in cultural terms it is profound. Can we really imagine a society that would ensure the survival of obscure but important families of beetles while remaining oblivious to the welfare of members of our own species who are ethnically different, geographically distant, or educationally disadvantaged? Can we care for migratory birds while ignoring children? Can we be stewards of the earth while neglecting humanity?

This long-term agenda is speculative. People of good will can disagree over the particulars and methods; some will require new science, others new laws, and all demand new thinking. This is a sketch of a vision, not a blueprint.

Realizing this dream will call on the same fundamental social and political traits we need to stop the Bush administration from shredding our environmental safety net. Protecting our health, our land, our children, and our heritage is a fundamental moral test of our time and must be a common endeavor. It requires us to be as bold, tough, and realistic as those who would trade away that heritage for short-term gain. Here is how we can prepare for a brighter twenty-first century:

Hold on to our dreams. We need to raise our sights, opt for hope over despair, and trust in our human capacity to do better.

Demand leadership. We need to make our political leaders accountable. They are supposed to be the stewards of our dreams and aspirations as a society; they work for us, however it may sometimes seem. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," said Thomas Jefferson; it is also the price of a tolerable, living planet. As the 2004 election approaches, the administration, the Congress, and other public officials will be listening more closely than usual to demands from the American people. Public comments on forest plans may no longer be counted individually, but votes still are.

Finally, we need to unite. De Tocqueville called it "the single greatest skill of democracy." After all, we are in this together. It is not a question of rich and poor, or brown and black and white, or urban and rural, or Republican and Democrat. We all breathe the air, we all drink the water, we all care about children. People should not suffer unnecessary risk because of the color of their skin, the size of their wallet, or whether their neighborhood is downwind or downstream.

America the Beautiful is at a fork in the road—one path leads backward toward the nineteenth century, the other forward into the twenty-first. The Bush administration has been intent on taking us backward, through strategic ignorance. But this crabbed, Hobbesian spirit of social Darwinism has been bested before, and our union of air breathers and water drinkers and parents and neighbors can overcome it again. After that, the future will be ours to make.

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Sierra Club Insider

Sierra Summit 2005



Save the date: September 8–11, 2005. San Francisco. That's when the Sierra Club will hold its first-ever national environmental convention and exposition. Sierra Summit 2005 will bring together thousands of Club members and supporters in one place and will feature three days of personal inspiration, networking, top-flight keynote speakers, 60+ workshops packed with visionary ideas and practical how-to's, star-studded entertainment, and an exhibition hall of cutting-edge products and solutions, and ideas for living well and caring for our environment.

The summit will also be an opportunity for Club grassroots activists and leaders to deliberate the Club's future. The summit steering committee, chaired by board members Greg Casini and Lisa Renstrom, below in lobster bibs, is seeking ideas and volunteers. Go to sierraclub.org/sierrasummit.

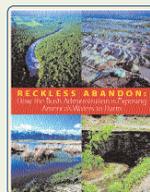


Hybrid SUV, Hybrid Thinking



Unions and environmentalists don't always see eye to eye, but on Labor Day, Jill Miller, Sierra Club organizer from St. Louis, at left, teamed up with Mike Perry, president of United Auto Workers Local 249 in Kansas City, to write an op-ed in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* applauding

Ford's new Escape Hybrid SUV. "Too often," they write, "we have fallen for politicians' and corporations' arguments that a clean, healthy environment can happen only at the expense of well-paying jobs. That's a sacrifice no one should have to make in America today, and the introduction of the first American-made hybrid car is helping to change that kind of thinking." The Escape is manufactured at a Missouri plant that employs 5,600 UAW members and it is projected to get 33 miles per gallon—almost twice the fuel efficiency of a typical SUV.



Reckless Abandon

A Bush administration policy established in January 2003 has "given developers and other polluters a green light to ignore the Clean Water Act," says Robin Mann, chair of the Club's Clean Water Campaign and co-author of a new report, "Reckless Abandon: How

the Bush Administration is Exposing America's Waters to Harm." The report, published in August by the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, and National Wildlife Federation, explains how the Army Corps of Engineers declined to enforce federal protections against water pollution in lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands across the country, including a 150-mile-long river in New Mexico, thousands of acres of wetlands in one of Florida's most important watersheds, and headwater streams in Appalachia. "The administration must immediately withdraw the January 2003 policy directive," the report concludes, "and replace it with clear instructions to Corps and EPA staff [to] enforce existing Clean Water Act limits...to the full extent of the law." For more information, go to sierraclub.org/recklessabandon.

Meaty Reading

Longtime Sierra Club clean water specialist Ken Midkiff's new book, "The Meat We Eat: How Corporate Farming Has Endangered America's Food Supply," depicts the sorry state of our meat supply. So settle in over a tofu burger or a free-range chicken fillet and educate your palate. (St. Martin's Press; www.stmartins.com)

—JOHN BYRNE BARRY AND TOM VALTIN

Ten to Make the Environment Matter on November 2

[FROM P. 1]

Florida; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; Albuquerque/Santa Fe, New Mexico; Columbus, Ohio; Portland, Oregon; Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the state of New Hampshire. For contact information, see page 5 or visit sierraclubvotes.org.

4. Give money.

Every \$50 donation creates 30 more direct contacts with environmental voters in critical battleground states. Go to sierraclub.org/politics to find out how to contribute.

5. Hit the road.

What if you don't live in a battleground state and you want to make a difference?

Enter the Sierra Club's Road to Somewhere program. By November 2, Club volunteers and staff will talk to tens of thousands of voters on the phone and at their doors, telling them about Bush and Kerry's records on the environment and urging them to vote. While local activists will do most of this work, the Road to Somewhere program is a way for committed volunteers to reach across state lines and help where help is needed most. In September, for example, Club volunteers from the Illinois Chapter headed north to help with door-to-door outreach in Milwaukee. Massachusetts Chapter members went next door to New Hampshire. Loma Prieta Chapter members hopped on a bus from the San Francisco Bay Area to Reno.

And if you don't live near a battle-

ground state or want to help without leaving town, you can make phone calls, either from your own home or, in some cases, from another member's home or a Sierra Club office. The Sierra Club supplies phone scripts and call lists. (See a sample phone script and more on the program on page 5.)

E-mail road.somewhere@sierraclub.org or go to sierraclubvotes.org and click on "Road to Somewhere."

6. Register to vote.

If you're not yet registered to vote, you may still have time. Registration deadlines vary by state. Most are between 10 and 30 days before the election. You can get a national voter registration form and instructions at sierraclubvotes.org/resources/nvra.pdf.

While you're at it, encourage five of your friends and neighbors to do the same. Remember, millions of people move every year, and many of them neglect to register at their new addresses.

7. Pick up a pen.

Write an editorial to your local paper contrasting the candidates' records on environmental protection and urging readers to get the facts before they vote. Letters to the editor are one of the most widely read parts of the newspaper. You can find tips on writing an effective letter at sierraclub.org/takeaction/toolkit/letters.asp#lte.

8. Open your mouth.

Call a radio talk show to talk about the candidates' records on the environment.

9. Host a party.

Have fun. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors. Talk about how the candidates' environmental priorities affect your community. Contact your Club chapter for mailing lists and house party tips.

10. Vote. And urge others to.

Make sure you get to the polls and vote on November 2. Also, consider ways you can help friends and family to vote, like calling to remind them or offering to drive them to the polls on Election Day.



Getting the Word Out In the City of Brotherly Love: v Hohmann and Carolyn Siegel, top, prepare to go door-to-door to talk v first" voters, as staff organizer Phila Back looks on. Above, phone-bank Horn and Josh Richard make targeted calls from the Club's Philadelph



Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

GEORGE W. BUSH AND JOHN KERRY

Who Shares Your Priorities?



CARE ABOUT PROTECTING AMERICA'S AIR, WATER, AND WILDLANDS?



FIND OUT WHO SHARES YOUR PRIORITIES.
 CHECK OUT THE CANDIDATES' RECORDS AND
 MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ON NOVEMBER 2.

CLEAN AIR

George W. Bush is seeking to allow coal-fired power plants to put three times more mercury into the air than the current Clean Air Act allows.¹ The administration is also seeking to delay smog reduction and exposing millions of Americans to air pollution for longer than the Clean Air Act allows.²

George W. Bush is weakening the law that requires power plants and factories to install modern pollution-control technology when they make changes that would increase air pollution.⁴

John Kerry was an original co-sponsor of the Clean Power Act of 2003, which would cut emissions of mercury, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants.³

John Kerry voted for the Edwards amendment to delay the Bush administration's plan to allow aging factories and power plants to make changes that increase pollution without having to install modern pollution-cutting technologies.⁵

CLEAN WATER

George W. Bush proposed a policy directive to allow a combination of untreated and treated sewage to be discharged into waterways during rainstorms.⁶

George W. Bush suspended a more protective standard for arsenic in drinking water set during the previous administration.⁸ He was forced to reverse his policy after public outcry.⁹

George W. Bush, under pressure from hunting and fishing groups, backed down from introducing a rule that would have removed many of the nation's wetlands and small streams from Clean Water Act protection.¹¹ However, he issued a directive to agencies not to enforce the Clean Water Act for these small streams and wetlands without first obtaining permission from agency headquarters, leaving 20 percent of America's wetlands at risk for dumping, filling, or pollution.¹²

John Kerry has repeatedly advocated for increased enforcement of clean water laws and for strengthening the Safe Drinking Water Act.⁷

John Kerry voted to prevent the Bush administration from returning to a standard that would have allowed more arsenic in drinking water.¹⁰

John Kerry co-sponsored legislation that would restore Clean Water Act protection for wetlands.¹³



Getting steamed—Debbie Sease, director of the Club's Environmental Voter Education Campaign, wears a "smokestack" hat to call attention to the importance of controlling mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants. "Every vote makes a difference," she says. "But some votes make more of a difference than others."

Road to Somewhere: How You Can Help No Matter Where You Live

This fall, all political eyes will be focused on the handful of battleground states where experts say the presidential election and many other races will be decided. The Sierra Club will be trying to talk to more people, knock on more doors, make more phone calls, and mobilize more members and voters than in any previous election. Volunteers aren't just knocking on any old door: we have identified environmentally oriented infrequent voters and will be contacting them multiple times.

You can help in the following ways: making calls from the comfort of your home, organizing a mailing party with your local group or chapter, or taking a working vacation to help with on-the-ground efforts in a nearby state.

WALKS Most voter education sites held community walks on the weekends of September 18-19 and October 9-10. But there will also be an opportunity for volunteers to participate in the big Get Out the Vote push the week before the election. To do so, contact the organizer nearest you, or sign up at sierraclubvotes.org.

If a hospitality committee exists in a site, local members will try and help arrange housing during your stay, or recommend convenient affordable lodging options.

PHONE CALLS No matter where you live, there will be opportunities to make phone calls in support of either voter education or get-out-the-vote activities. Once you sign up, you will be able to download a list of identified names, localized scripts, and report-back forms. (See sample phone script at right.)

Individuals can download ten names at a time, and after

reporting back their results online will be able to get an additional ten names. Many chapters and groups are hosting cell-phone calling parties, where volunteers come to someone's home (or a Club office) with their cell phones.

(In the tradition of the Sierra Club, these efforts are volunteer-driven and conducted at minimal cost, so we are looking for participants who have cell-phone programs with free evening and weekend long-distance.)

If you would like to host a cell-phone party, you will be provided with detailed instructions and procedures for organizing the event and obtaining lists with sufficient names for the size of your group. Please go to sierraclubvotes.org for details.

IMPORTANT NOTES The Sierra Club is unable to pay for any travel arrangements or housing or reimbursement for phone calls during your participation in the Road to Somewhere program.

This program is an independent voter education effort, in which we do not advocate for the election or defeat of any candidate. Instead we educate the voters about the environmental records of John Kerry and George W. Bush, compare and contrast their records, and remind all concerned voters to get out and vote. No part of this program may be coordinated with any presidential campaign or political party.



CONTACTS

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Sample Phone Script

Here's an example of a phone script used by phone-bank volunteers in Ohio for voter education:

INTRO: Hi could I speak to _____?

Hi (repeat name), my name is _____ and I am a volunteer with the local Sierra Club. We're not asking for money. We are calling folks in your neighborhood to discuss the presidential election and some environmental issues facing us right here in the Columbus area.

The Sierra Club is working to educate voters in Ohio about environmental issues. In Ohio there are dozens of toxic waste sites. Senator Kerry co-sponsored legislation that would require the companies who abandoned these toxic waste sites to pay to clean them up. President Bush has refused to support the polluter-pays principle and has instead required taxpayers to pay to clean up the mess.

It is important that we get this story out to Ohio voters, and we need your help in our grassroots campaign. Would you be interested in volunteering to help the Sierra Club educate voters on local environmental issues and to encourage people to vote on Election Day?

If yes, take down information.

If no, thank them for their time.

TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP

George W. Bush has refused to support the principle of "polluter pays" and believes taxpayers, not polluters, should pay to clean up abandoned toxic waste sites.¹⁴

John Kerry co-sponsored legislation that would take the burden off the taxpayers and reinstate taxes which would hold polluting companies responsible for paying to clean up abandoned toxic waste sites.¹⁵

ENERGY

George W. Bush approved the creation of a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.¹⁶

John Kerry has consistently voted against establishing a nuclear repository at Yucca Mountain.¹⁷

George W. Bush backed away from the Kyoto treaty to reduce international greenhouse-gas emissions¹⁸ responsible for global warming, and reversed his campaign promise to cut emissions of carbon dioxide.¹⁹

John Kerry introduced legislation to address global climate change and cut greenhouse gas emissions.²⁰

George W. Bush proposed cutting energy-efficiency research and development by 27 percent overall.²¹

John Kerry voted against defunding renewable energy programs.²²

WILDLANDS PROTECTION

George W. Bush has pushed repeatedly to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling.²³

John Kerry voted repeatedly to block oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and co-sponsored a bill to protect a portion of the refuge as wilderness.²⁴

George W. Bush opened millions of acres of national forests to increased logging in the name of wildfire protection.²⁵

John Kerry has voted to cut subsidies for logging in National Forests.²⁶

Check Out the Facts:

- 69-Federal Register 4652-4700, 1/30/04
- Clear Skies Summary Document, pp 18-19, revising sections 107/110 of the Clean Air Act
- S.366, 2/12/03
- New Source Review, 67-Federal Register 80186, 12/31/03; 68-Federal Register
- 1248, 10/27/03
- S.343, 7/12/95; S.1316, 11/29/95
- 66-Federal Register 99, 5/22/01
- 67-Federal Register 74, 4/17/02, "Bush Vows To Reduce Arsenic in H₂O" Associated Press, 3/29/01
- H.R. 1836, Senate vote 148, 5/22/01
- "Administration Backs Off Clean Water Act," Los Angeles Times, 12/17/03
- 68-Federal Register 10, 1/15/03; "U.S. Plan Could Ease Limits on Wetlands Development," The New York Times, January 11, 2003
- S. Con. Res. 57, Senate vote 125, 5/22/96
- GAO Superfund Program: Current Status and Future Challenges, July 2003
- S.173, 1/16/03; S. Con. Res. 23, Senate vote 97, 3/25/03

- White House News Release, 2/15/02
- Senate Vote 167, 7/9/02
- White House Announcement, 3/28/01
- White House Announcement, 3/13/01
- S. Amendment 249 to S. Amendment 170, 4/6/01; S20030420, 10/30/03
- Budget of the United States Government FY 2002
www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy02/pdf/budget.pdf
- S. 1186, Senate vote 171, 6/16/99
- National Energy Policy Development Group Report
www.whitehouse.gov/energy/Chapter5.pdf,
White House Statement of Administrative Policy for S. 14
www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/108-1/s14sap-s.pdf
- Senate Vote 58, 4/6/00; S 517, Senate Vote 71, 4/18/02; S. Con. Res 23, Senate Vote 59, 3/19/03; S. 543, 3/5/03
- Public Law 108-148, 117, Stat. 1887
- HR 2466, Senate Vote 266, 9/9/99/HR 2466, Senate Vote 272, 9/14/99

a alerts

Yellowstone's Grizzlies Need Your Support

BY TOM VALTIN

The Bush administration says it wants to protect grizzlies, yet it continues to attack the Endangered Species Act and other protections that allow the great bear to survive. Efforts to recover lost or imperiled grizzly habitat have been hugely aided by the Endangered Species Act, and one of the places recovery efforts have been most successful is in the Greater Yellowstone Area. Still, according to U.S. Geological Service biologists, there are probably no more than 420 grizzlies left in the region.

One of the final steps in removing federal protections for the grizzly is already underway. The U.S. Forest Service recently released its Draft Forest Plan Amendments for Grizzly Bear Conservation in the Greater Yellowstone Area National Forests, a step which will further enable the federal government to remove grizzlies from the Endangered Species List.

Perhaps more than any other North American animal, grizzly bears embody the true spirit of wilderness. A little over a century ago, grizzlies still roamed from the plains of the Mississippi to the Pacific Coast. Now, a tenuous few remnant populations remain in isolated pockets of the Northern Rockies.

"As a result of industrial logging and road building, increased motorized recreation, oil and gas drilling, and residential population growth, grizzly habitat is far less secure than when the population was first listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1975," says Heidi Godwin of the Sierra Club Grizzly Bear Ecosystems Project.

According to leading researchers, current grizzly bear population numbers are far too low, islands of grizzly habitat are too isolated from each other, and the area of protected habitat is far too small to ensure the long-term survival of the grizzly in the Lower 48. But despite these facts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to remove Endangered Species Act protections from the Yellowstone population of grizzly bears.

"The progress that bears have made so far in their recovery has been slow, difficult, and relatively small," says Monica Fella, a Sierra Club organizer in Bozeman, Montana. "The grizzly is a tough animal to recover because grizzlies need large home ranges, remote habitat with little human activity, and their reproduction rate is

working against them—grizzlies are the second-lowest reproducer in North America."

Currently the Forest Service is asking for public comments on its Draft Forest Plan Amendments for the Greater Yellowstone Area National Forests. These proposed changes to forest management plans will guide the management of grizzly bear habitat on six national forests in Greater Yellowstone by determining how much habitat is protected and what level of protection those lands will receive.

The single most important thing concerned activists can do right now is send a letter to the Forest Service encouraging the strongest protections for grizzly bears and their habitat to ensure long-term viability for bears. While the Forest Service's preferred Alternative 2 takes some positive steps, including limits on further loss of habitat within the grizzly bear Primary Conservation Area, it falls short of protecting the habitat bears need. The Sierra Club supports Alternative 4, which best secures a brighter future for grizzlies.

Take Action Ask the Forest Service for a plan that:

■ **Protects grizzly bear habitat**—Alternative 4 safeguards some 2.9 million acres of currently occupied grizzly habitat outside the Primary Conservation Area (PCA) that would not be protected in Alternative 2. In addition, Alternative 2 would allow loss of key grizzly habitat within the PCA through more roads, logging, and oil and gas development. Alternative 4 would protect these lands and prevent further habitat destruction.

■ **Keeps remaining wildlands wild for bears**—Alternative 4 protects roadless areas, the most important habitat for grizzly bears. Keeping these areas roadless will retain the wild characteristics of the habitat that bears need to survive. Alternative 2 has many loopholes that would allow for loss of roadless lands both inside and outside the PCA. Additionally, Alternative 2 makes no provisions for linking the Greater Yellowstone to bear populations in other ecosystems.

■ **Expands food storage requirements to all national forests**—Every year grizzlies are killed because they get into human food and garbage, making them a threat to people and property. This could be prevented if food and trash were properly stored in our national forests. Alternative 4 would mandate that all area forests put in place forest-wide food storage requirements.

Please send written comments by November 12 to: R2 Grizzly Bear Amendments, c/o Content Analysis Team, P.O. Box 22810, Salt Lake City, UT 84122-2810. Fax: (801) 517-1021; or e-mail comments to r2grizzly@fs.fed.us.

For more information please visit the Sierra Club Grizzly Bear Project Web site sierraclub.org/grizzly, call (406) 582-8365 or e-mail grizzly.bear@sierraclub.org.

to take action

WRITE: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

CALL: The White House, (202) 456-1111
Capitol Switchboard, (202) 224-3121

LEARN: For updates on the Club's legislative priorities, call the Legislative Hotline at (202) 675-2394.

SURF: Visit our Web site at www.sierraclub.org

In Memoriam, Mary Wiper



On August 1, Sierra Club Associate Representative Mary Wiper, 28, was killed by lightning while hiking with friends in Breckenridge, Colorado. Two others who were also struck regained consciousness, but were unable to revive Mary.

"This accident is about as random as anything nature can serve up," says Club organizer Lawson LeGate of Salt Lake City. "She's going to leave a big space in our hearts on a personal level, and she'll leave a hole in our organization that will be hard to fill."

Mary grew up in the small farm town of Bowbells, North Dakota, where she nurtured a deep love for the land. At the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, she worked to establish an Earth Day celebration and a long-term recycling program on campus. After graduating summa cum laude in 1999, she went to work for the Sierra Club in South Dakota, gathering public comment on a national grasslands management plan for the Dakotas.

That fall, Mary became a conservation organizer for the Club in Billings, Montana. The centerpiece of her work was Weatherman Draw—also known as the Valley of the Chiefs—on Montana's high plains, a place held sacred by Plains Indian tribes from Montana to Oklahoma. Renowned for its 1,100-year-old rock art, it drew the attention of the tribes and others because it was slated for oil development.

"Mary nurtured a group of trouble-makers who were willing to stand up for this place," says Northern Plains Sierra Club organizer Kathryn Hohmann. "She sustained our network by doing the footwork, phone-banking, writing mailers, researching agency decisions—everything from talking with national news outlets to booking hotel rooms. Her work even took her to Washington, D.C., where members of Congress heard the intensity of our purpose."

Mary employed her talents of media outreach and coalition-building to bring together activists, local and national tribal members, local and national legislators, geologists, attorneys, archeologists, oil industry representatives, and BLM personnel. Ultimately, the corporation holding the drilling lease dropped its plans and donated its lease to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. No one deserved more credit for the victory than Mary.

"She impressed everyone who knew her with her extraordinary poise and her well-honed strategic sense," says LeGate. "Her gentle nature belied her fierce devotion to protecting our nation's environment."

In May 2003, Mary was promoted and relocated to Albuquerque, where she worked on the successful campaign to prevent coal mining in Zuni Salt Lake, another sacred site, and joined the campaign to protect Otero Mesa in southern New Mexico from natural gas development. She was recently appointed to be the lead organizer in the Building Environmental Communities program in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

"Mary was only in the state a short time and had already made tremendous contributions to protecting New Mexico's health and environment," says Jeanne Bassett of the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group. "It's an enormous loss to the conservation community," agrees Stephen Capra of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

Jennifer McKee, a Billings Gazette reporter when Mary was in Montana, says Mary's sunniness belied her strength. "At first, one thought Mary's sweetness would be quickly crushed by the toxicity of environmental fights in the West. Mary proved them wrong. She fought for the land she loved, but did not sacrifice her lightness or her optimism to the cause. Mary was not a cynic. She graced her friends and the land she cherished with all her gifts. She was infectious, sincere, but above all, the sweetest person I have ever known."

Mary is survived by her mother, Sandra, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; her father, Ray, of Bowbells, North Dakota; a sister, Ann Gerber, of Los Angeles; and a brother, Robert, of Minneapolis.

GRIZZLY AND WOLF DISCOVERY CENTER



Fear and Logging in Tahoe

BY CAROLINE KRAUS

When the Forest Service claimed that its Red Star Timber Sale in a roadless area of the Tahoe National Forest would reduce the risk of fire through “forest thinning,” its actual plan, says Sierra Club attorney Aaron Isherwood, called for cutting the largest trees and leaving behind large amounts of highly combustible “slash” debris, such as branches, brush, and tree tops.

Sounds like creating a fire hazard, not reducing one, doesn't it? So said the Sierra Club, John Muir Project, and other environmental groups when they sued the Forest Service to stop the Red Star sale back in 2002. And so agreed the Bush-appointed Judge Morris England, who issued a preliminary injunction against the sale on August 20, ruling that the logging project was illegal.

In the end, Forest Service attorneys admitted that they planned to log large diameter trees in the Duncan Canyon area, and leave 85 tons per acre of flammable debris behind. Judge England pointed out that 85 tons was more than double the amount of slash that the agency's own scientific studies said would cause an extreme fire hazard. And leaving such large quantities of slash, he said, “could lead to a situation that would create bonfire-style combustion across the landscape.”

Which begs the question, “Why?” The Red Star case points to a disturbing answer, to a pattern within the Bush administration of exploiting legitimate fears of fire in communities near forests in order to gain access to protected forests.

“Their strategy is to scare the hell out of everybody,” Isherwood says. “They tell everyone that fires will take their homes without logging, but instead of removing brush and small trees near communities at risk, they are logging ancient forests in remote parts of the backcountry to reward their campaign-contributing friends in the timber industry.”

The Red Star case illustrates just how tight those ties to the timber industry are, influencing judgment in the Bush administration to the point of putting people in harm's way. “It's unconscionable,” says

Isherwood. “The Bush administration is claiming to help communities even as it knowingly puts people at risk.”

So Judge England's decision has environmentalists cheering, but not only because the injunction has stopped the Red Star project. His ruling has also created an important precedent as the first decision to stop a logging project that violated the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

The Roadless Rule was issued in January 2001 to protect 58.5 million acres of national forest land from commercial logging and road-building. That still leaves two-thirds of America's national forests open to logging and other industries, but on July 12, the Bush administration announced a proposal to repeal the Roadless Rule, in effect putting the last third of the nation's wild forests at risk. (See “Stop Attack on Roadless Rule,” below.)

Ironically, Duncan Canyon has already lost thousands of acres of forest as a result of the Star Fire in 2001—a fire that started when lightning ignited a slash pile left behind by a commercial logging operation.

victory

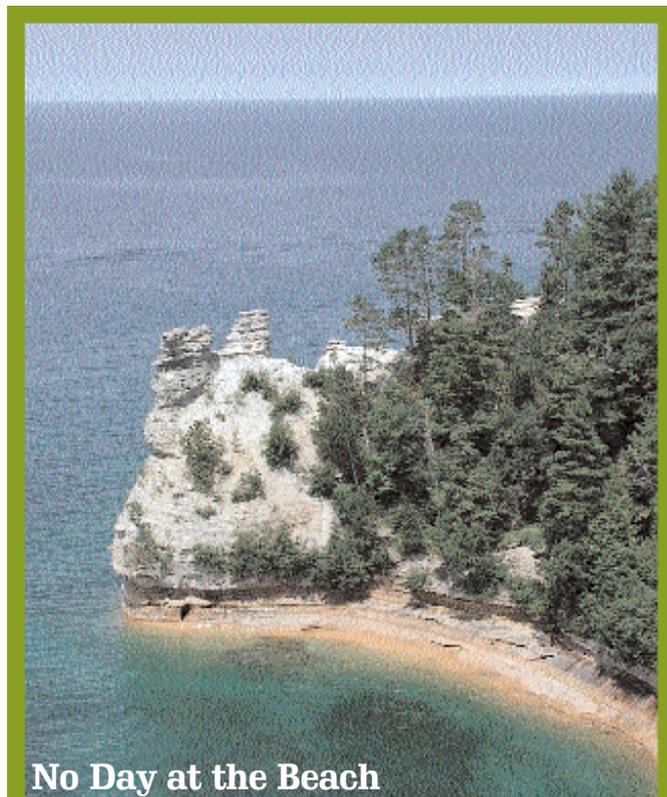
Pollution and Deception at Ground Zero

[FROM P. 1]

rescue personnel, workers and people who live near ground zero. Her conclusion is grim—that widespread public exposure to toxic pollution from the September 11 attack could have been prevented had the EPA and other governmental agencies not lied, withheld information, or discouraged residents and workers from wearing protective masks.

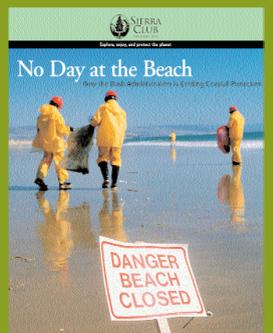
Furthermore, Mattei notes, the federal government's failures cannot be “excused by ignorance, surprise, or emergency conditions” because the EPA statements and records show that it was fully aware that dangerous pollutants were still present in the ground zero area.

During the Republican convention, Sierra Club volunteers, residents and workers in the ground zero area participated in a daily vigil near the site to hold President Bush accountable for failing to protect public health in the aftermath of 9/11. The group called upon the president to meet the needs of the people exposed to ground zero pollution. The Sierra Club and its ground zero allies continue to work to educate the nation about the need for proper protection of public health in the wake of national emergencies.



No Day at the Beach

A new Sierra Club report, “No Day at the Beach: How the Bush Administration Is Eroding Coastal Protection,” released in September, documents threats to our coasts from Bush administration actions. It calls on the administration to cut mercury contamination, control sewage and nutrient pollution, reduce the need for oil and gas development by shifting our energy policy toward more reliance on efficiency and renewables, and to protect and restore coastal wetlands. Lake Superior, above, is one of four Great Lakes under fish consumption advisories because of mercury contamination. On Texas' Padre Island National Seashore, below, sunbathers and endangered sea turtles must share the narrow beach with big rigs delivering construction materials for gas wells.



“No Day at the Beach” is available at sierraclub.org/coastalreport.



COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

Stop Attack on Roadless Rule

The Bush administration's latest effort to reduce or eliminate decades of national forest protection and increase spending to benefit timber companies must be stopped. Already, 440,000 miles of roads are carved into America's national forests. The wildly popular Roadless Area Conservation Rule helps protect our remaining wild forests and the clean water, wildlife habitat, and outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities from more taxpayer-subsidized commercial logging.

On September 8, the administration announced that the public comment period on the Roadless Rule, originally scheduled to end September 14, would be extended to November 14. We now have more time to raise awareness of the administration's destructive national forest policies—make your voices heard. Tell the Forest Service to keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact:

Go to sierraclub.org/action and click on “forests.”

THE PLANET

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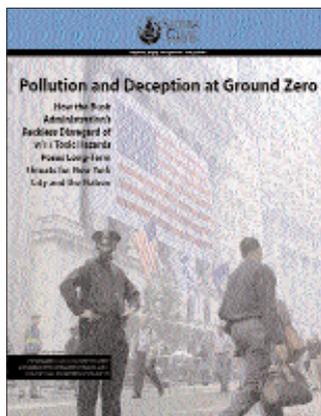
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PHOTO: COLLECTION

CHRIS WHITE

clubbeat

Hoover Cleans Up at Club Awards Fete

At its annual meeting in September, the Sierra Club presented its highest honor, the John Muir Award, honoring a distinguished record of achievement, to longtime wilderness activist **Vicky Hoover** of San Francisco. When Hoover began leading national outings for the Club, Richard Nixon was duking it out with Hubert Humphrey for the presidency and the Wilderness Act was a mere four years old. Thirty-six years later, Hoover is still leading national outings and championing the wild places she holds dear.

"I don't deserve a lot of credit for wilderness activism because I've done it selfishly, for fun," she says with characteristic modesty. "It doesn't feel like work going to wild, beautiful places, advocating for them, and taking other people there." Hoover's many decades of conservation activism, however, stand as indubitable proof of her vigor, her vision, and her commitment to the cause.

Ken and Gabrielle Adelman of Corralitos, California, received the Ansel Adams Award for conservation photography. The Adelmans were honored for their work on the California Coastal Records Project, a massive effort to photograph the entire 1,100-mile California coastline from the air. Their photographs, which now number more than 12,000, have been used by numerous organizations in their efforts to protect the California coastline. You can view them at californiacoastline.org.

Peter Douglas, executive director of

the California Coastal Commission since 1984, received the Distinguished Service Award, which honors persons in public service for that commitment to conservation. "Peter has improved protection of our coast from pollution, strengthened enforcement under the California Coastal Act, and enhanced public education and outreach about the importance of our marine resources," said Senator Barbara Boxer.

Also receiving the Distinguished Service Award was California state Senator **Byron Sher**, one of the nation's preeminent state legislators on environmental issues. Laws he authored during his 24 years in the California legislature have served as models around the nation.

"Over the years Senator Sher has shown consistent leadership on environmental issues, writing legislation to protect California's air, water, forests, and wilderness areas," said Sierra Club President Larry Fahn. "He has been an inspiration to like-minded state legislators around the country, and he will be deeply missed." He retires in November due to term limits.

The Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund Award, which recognizes a Club member under the age of 30, went to 18-year-old **Paul Dana** of San Diego. Dana organized more than 20,000 students around the country to participate in Earth Day events this year.

Also honored were former Secretary of the Interior **Stewart Lee Udall** of Santa Fe, New Mexico, who received the Edgar Wayburn Award for service to

the environment by a person in government; and syndicated columnist **Molly Ivins** of Austin, Texas, who received the David Brower Award for environmental journalism.

Other Sierra Club awards for 2004 included:

Distinguished Achievement Award (honoring persons in public service): **Michael Parker** of Aberdeen, Maryland; and **Allan Laird** of Littleton, Colorado.

EarthCare Award (honoring a contribution to international environmental protection and conservation): **James Barnes** of France.

Electronic Communication Award: **Angeles Chapter** (for angeles.sierraclub.org).

Environmental Alliance Award (for forging partnerships with non-Sierra Club entities): **Ross Vincent** of Pueblo, Colorado.

Ida and Denny Wilcher Award (for fundraising or membership development): **Cumberland Chapter** (Kentucky).

Madelyn Pyeatt Award (honoring Club members working with youth): **Mark Walters** of Coral Gables, Florida.

Newsletter Award: **The Indiana Sierran** (published by the Indiana Chapter); and **The Bugle** (published by the Rocky Mountain Chapter's Indian Peaks Group).

Oliver Kehrlein Award (for outstanding service to the Outings program): **Brad and Katy Cristie** of Richmond, California.

One Club Award (for using outings



Vicky Hoover

to instill an interest in conservation and protecting public lands): **David Simon** of Los Altos, California.

Raymond Sherwin International Award (for international conservation): **Judy Olmer** of Cabin John, Maryland.

Special Achievement Award (recognizing a single act of importance dedicated to conservation): **Keith Schue** of Mount Plymouth, Florida.

Special Service Awards (for commitment to conservation over an extended period of time): **Sam Booher** of Augusta, Georgia; **Ruth Caplan** of Washington, D.C.; **Sherm Janke** of Bozeman, Montana; and **Gwen Nystuen** of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Susan E. Miller Award (for outstanding service to Sierra Club chapters): **Mark Collier** of Boulder, Colorado; and **Charles Oriz** of Littleton, Colorado.

William Colby Award (the Club's highest honor for administrative work): **Greg Casini** of Denver, Colorado.

William O. Douglas Award (for contributions in the field of environmental law): **Roger Beers** of Oakland, California.

For more information on the Sierra Club awards program, visit sierraclub.org/awards.

who we are

Ogden Doremus—Metter, Georgia Georgia Chapter Vice Chair

"Georgia's coast is the least developed in the nation," declares retired state court Judge Ogden Doremus with more than a touch of pride. Indeed, while it is far from immune to development, Georgia's coast is still characterized by long stretches of tidal marsh rather than hotels and condominiums. Doremus, 83, is largely to thank.

Doremus co-founded the Izaak Walton League in Georgia in 1950, was among the first trustees of the Georgia Conservancy in the 1970s, and co-founded the Georgia Center for Law and the Public Interest in 1992, where he still serves as director.

In 1970, he helped plan the Georgia Marshlands Protection Act, which declared Georgia's coastal salt marshes to be state property. He organized public support and lobbied a joint House-Senate committee to support the bill, which passed after what he calls a "bloody" fight. On his 75th birthday, the Georgia General Assembly honored the judge with a resolution calling the Marshlands Protection Act his "crowning glory."

But the fight is ongoing, he says. "Developers see the Act as an impediment. The business world considers land something they're simply entitled to use."

Doremus laments that environmentalists have been fighting defensively of late, but he feels the pendulum will swing back. He cites as positive signs the recent defeat of water privatization in Georgia and the election of slow-growth commissioners in suburban Atlanta.

"Ultimately, the environment's biggest threat is population growth," he says. "Look at any statistics you want and you'll see that we're going to have to deal with more people. If we don't set up some safeguards, the march of time and population growth will take an inevitable toll."



David and Olga Chesakov—

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Allegheny Group volunteers

An avid hiker and kayaker in his native Russia, David Chesakov first learned about the Sierra Club while researching environmental issues and social initiatives during the perestroika era. "I saw so much environmental damage in Russia," says Chesakov, an engineer. "Northern forests were being cut, waters were being polluted, 18-wheelers were tearing up the landscape bringing supplies to oil rigs. It was painful to watch."

He and Olga met on a backpacking trip in the Caucasus Mountains. "We were at 12,000 feet," Olga recalls, "looking at gorgeous views of snow-covered ranges—and rusty tin cans, leftovers of previous expeditions. On the way back David and I picked up full backpacks of metal. Not everybody in our group could understand what we were doing."

In 1992, the couple moved to Pittsburgh, where they had relatives. Upon buying a new home, the first person to knock on their door was a young Sierra Club volunteer, wanting to talk about clean

water issues. "This was very meaningful to us," David says. "To have a live person come to our door to talk about something important like clean water gave us the spark to join the Sierra Club."

Last year he and Olga became two of those live persons knocking on doors when they participated in several Sierra Club community walks, talking with neighbors about the importance of keeping the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act strong. "There's an obvious difference in the way people are responding compared to last year," David says. "They're saying, 'Yes, we're interested in what you're doing'—maybe because it's an election year. Being involved with the Sierra Club helps us feel that we've really become Americans."



Patricia Burke—San Juan, Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico volunteer

When the Sierra Club Board of Directors meets in Puerto Rico this February, Club members there like Patricia Burke hope that their bid to become the newest chapter will be ratified. A passionate environmentalist, Burke has been a major force behind the nascent chapter's growth. A resident of San Juan, she also teaches English to German students.



"Patricia's just amazing," says Sierra Club staffer Camilla Feibelman, who has worked with Burke to coordinate chapter efforts and a partnerships program. "She's been a major force in building membership, and it's incredibly hard to grow an organization from nothing. She stuck to her vision all the way."

"I've always been involved in environmental issues," Burke admits. "I've had the opportunity to live in California and Germany, and in those places you can really see what's possible. It's not the same for Puerto Rico yet."

One local issue that's close to Burke's heart centers on the Northeastern Ecological Corridor, which is under threat of serious development. "It's a rare and ecologically important place," Burke says, "and it would be an irreplaceable, devastating loss."

Burke finds ways to bring people together over such causes. She's manned booths, mailed letters, gone door-to-door, and most recently she helped draw the largest crowd ever at one of their monthly Club meetings.

"Forty people came," Burke recalls with amazement. "Students, adults, Boy Scouts. One woman drove three hours one-way!"

Such are the tangible results of Burke's energy and mission. "Everyone is an environmentalist at heart," she says. "That's something I first learned from the Sierra Club."

—PROFILES BY TOM VALTIN AND CAROLINE KRAUS